

FACT SHEET



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

TRANSITIONAL
EMPLOYMENT
ASSISTANCE
(TEA)

CAREER PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

In January 2003, the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges (AATYC), together with the Southern Good Faith Fund (SGFF), the Governor's office, and other partners, were awarded a grant from the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices as part of their Pathways to Advancement Initiative. This initiative worked to assist states to develop strategies for improving educational attainment for low-income and low-skilled adults.

These organizations piloted the first career pathways effort in partnership with Southeast Arkansas College. Following the pilot, the Arkansas Transitional Employment Assistance program (TEA) and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) decided to replicate the pilot at other two-year colleges across the state. SGFF and AATYC worked with ADHE to build support among state policymakers to develop a state initiative – the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative.

HISTORY

- Career Pathways began as a pilot in 2003 at Southeast Arkansas College.
- In 2005, Arkansas Act 1705 codified Career Pathways, which required ADHE, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (ADWS), and the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) to jointly develop the initiative.
- In 2007, Act 514 further defined the initiative as facilitating the increased access of low-income parents and other individuals to education credentials leading to higher-paying jobs.
- Under the leadership of Governor Mike Beebe, the program expanded from 11 of the state's two-year institutions to all 25 two-year campuses in Arkansas to provide training in local high-demand occupations and career fields, in addition to intensive counseling and supplemental services.



ARKANSAS FUNDING

- \$13,000,000 TANF funding annually
- Memorandum of Agreement between ADWS and ADHE
- Annual plan required with performance measures/goals for each of the 25 two-year campuses
- Campus allocations range from \$226,310 to \$686,628

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Must be an adult caretaker, parent, or relative of a child living in the home under the age of 21
2. Must be receiving Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) now, or have received TEA in the past, or
3. Must be receiving food stamps, ARKids or Medicaid, or
4. Must have an annual family income below 250% of the federal poverty level (about \$46,000 annually for a family of three)

Services under the Career Pathways Initiative are considered non-assistance in that they are not considered to meet the on-going basic need. All current TEA clients participating in the Career Pathways Initiative are required to meet mandatory work requirements along with their educational activities. All work supports, including child care, are available to participants.

PARTICIPATING COLLEGES

- Arkansas Northeastern College
- Arkansas State University - Beebe
- Arkansas State University - Mountain Home
- Arkansas State University - Newport
- Arkansas Tech University - Ozark Campus
- Black River Technical College
- Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas
- Mid-South Community College
- National Park Community College
- North Arkansas College
- North Arkansas Community College
- Ouachita Technical College
- Ozarka College
- Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas
- Pulaski Technical College
- Rich Mountain Community College
- South Arkansas Community College
- Southeast Arkansas College
- Southern Arkansas University Tech
- University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville
- University of Arkansas Community College at Hope
- University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton
- UAM - College of Technology Crossett
- UAM - College of Technology McGehee

PROGRAM DESIGN

Arkansas Career Pathways is designed to meet the needs of low-income parents and non-traditional students to gain skills that lead to self-sufficiency by providing them access, at no cost, to educational, work-based programs offered through two-year colleges and technical institutions. Services include tuition, fees, books, child care, transportation, and other support. All participants are required to apply for Pell Grants for which they are eligible. These funds are to be exhausted prior to the use of TANF funds.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (12-31-2012)

- 27,951 Enrollments
- 12,209 Employability Certificates
- 4,134 Technical Certificates
- 4,139 Associate Degrees
- 4,259 Certificate of Proficiency
- 471 GED's
- 456 Other Certificates



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